

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Douglas Lamont Rice, # 319577,)
Petitioner,) No. 6:14-cv-3748-RMG
vs.)
Warden Leroy Cartledge,)
Respondent.)

)

This matter comes before the Court on the Report and Recommendation (“R & R”) of the Magistrate Judge, recommending that Respondent’s motion for summary judgment (Dkt. No. 19) be granted and the petition be dismissed. (Dkt. No. 27). Petitioner was advised that he had a right to submit written objections to the R & R within 14 days of service and a failure to timely file written objections could result in limited review by the District Court and waiver of the right to appeal the judgment of the District Court. (*Id.* at 36). Petitioner failed to file any written objections.

The Magistrate Judge makes only a recommendation to this Court. The recommendation has no presumptive weight, and the responsibility to make a final determination remains with the Court. *Mathews v. Weber*, 423 U.S. 261, 270–71 (1976). The Court may “accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the findings or recommendations made by the magistrate.” 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). This Court is charged with making a de novo determination of those portions of the R & R to which objection is made. *Diamond v. Colonial Life & Acc. Ins. Co.*, 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005) (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)); *accord* Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b). However, as is the case here, where no objections are made, this Court “must only satisfy itself

that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation.” *Id.* (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P 72 advisory committee note). Moreover, in the absence of specific objections to the R & R, the Court need not give any explanation for adopting the Magistrate Judge’s analysis and recommendation. *See Camby v. Davis*, 718 F.2d 198, 199-200 (4th Cir. 1983).

Petitioner was convicted *in absentia* in December 2006 for trafficking cocaine and was sentenced to twenty five years in prison. Petitioner was subsequently apprehended and incarcerated by the South Carolina Department of Corrections. Petitioner unsuccessfully sought to challenge his conviction on direct appeal and through state post conviction relief proceedings. He thereafter timely filed a petition for habeas corpus *pro se* under 28 U.S.C. § 2254, raising four separate grounds for relief. On July 6, 2015, the Magistrate Judge issued an R & R which addressing the factual and legal issues raised by Petitioner and concluded that Respondent was entitled to summary judgment on each ground. Petitioner thereafter failed to file any written objections.

After a careful review of the R & R, the record evidence and the applicable statutory and case law, the Court finds that the Magistrate Judge ably addressed the factual and legal issues in this matter and correctly concluded that Respondent is entitled to summary judgment on each of the four grounds raised. Therefore, the Court **ADOPTS** in full the Magistrate Judge’s Report and Recommendation (Dkt. No. 27) as the order of this Court and **GRANTS** Respondent’s motion for summary judgment (Dkt. No. 19). Petitioner’s habeas petitions is **DISMISSED** with prejudice.

Certificate of Appealability

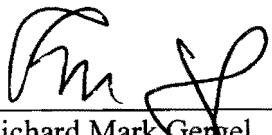
The governing law provides that:

(c)(2) A certificate of appealability may issue . . . only if the applicant has made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.

(c)(3) The certificate of appealability . . . shall indicate which specific issue or issues satisfy the showing required by paragraph (2).

28 U.S.C. § 2253(c). A prisoner satisfies the standard by demonstrating that reasonable jurists would find this Court's assessment of his constitutional claims debatable or wrong and that any dispositive procedural ruling by the district court is likewise debatable. *See Miller-El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 336 (2003); *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000); *Rose v. Lee*, 252 F.3d 676, 683 (4th Cir. 2001). In this case, the legal standard for the issuance of a certificate of appealability has not been met. Therefore, a certificate of appealability is **DENIED**.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Richard Mark Gergel
United States District Judge

July 27, 2015
Charleston, South Carolina